スタジオパルプ

studio pulp

Act 4.

久米田康治
Koji Kumeta

トン
トン
Cat Savior Refuses to His Name
Hercules Beetle Discovered in Chiba Prefectur
UM...
は、

Garupan is Great!
By Chouno
I Peeled Amari
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "WHY"?
WHY WERE WE LIVING TOGETHER, AGAIN?

AHHH!
IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE FRIENDSHIP THAT BLOOMED BETWEEN US AT THE END OF OUR (MOUTH) FIGHT, WASN'T IT?

JUST FRIENDS.
THEN, THE TWO OF US ARE...

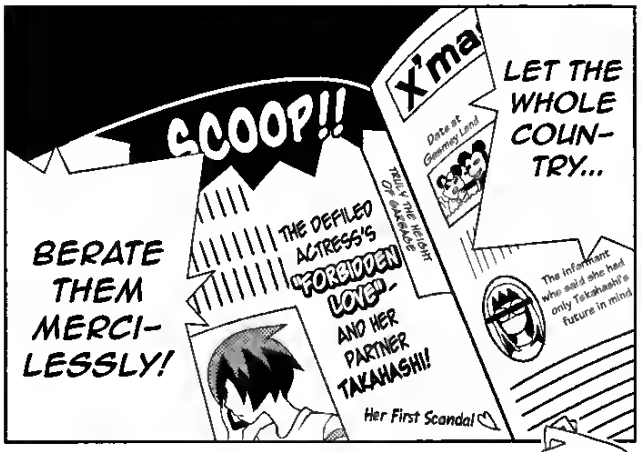
YOU REALLY THINK IT'LL LOOK THAT WAY IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC?
JUST FRIENDS.
WE'RE BOTH...

OF COURSE WE ARE!
I FEEL MUCH BETTER, NOW.

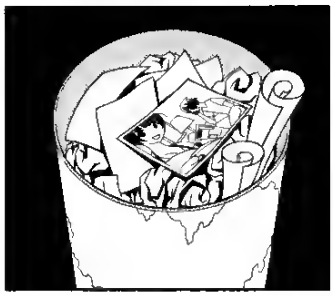
I'M GOING TO RUIN YOU.
I SWEAR...
すっ
HERE.
BUNSHUN
EVEN IS THIS?
WHO ...
"WELL"? ...
WELL?
IT MAKES FOR AN OUTRAGEOUS SCANDAL, DOESN'T IT?
.....

DO YOU THINK?
WHAT ...

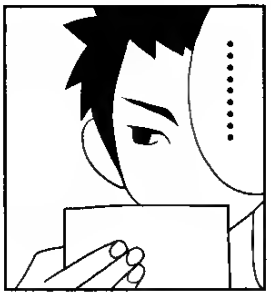
SO PLEASE, GIVE US SOME TIME TO GO OVER IT.
I'LL TRY TO MAKE SURE THIS GETS TO THE APPRO-PRIATE PLACE...


SCOOP!!
THE DEFILED ACTRESS'S FORBIDDEN LOVE- AND HER PARTNER TAKAHASHI!
Her First Scandal
LET THE WHOLE COUN-TRY...
BERATE THEM MERCI-LESSLY!

I DID IT! WITH THIS, THOSE TWO ARE RUINED!



OUT OF SOME NO-NAME LIKE THIS.
AS IF WE COULD EVER MAKE A STORY...

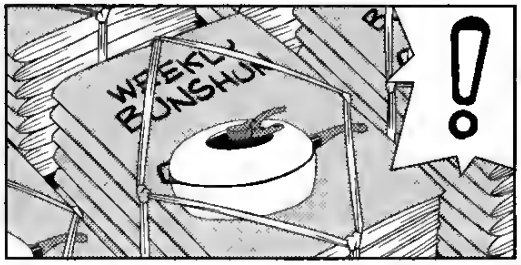

.....

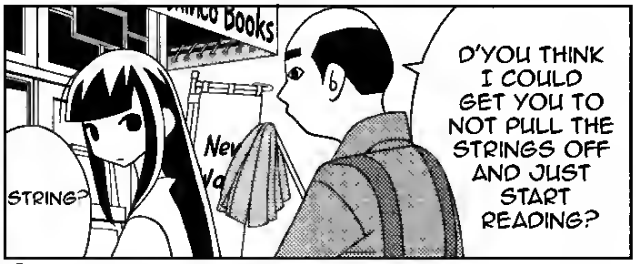
One Week Later
IT'S NOT HERE ...
IT'S NOT PRINTED ANY-WHERE!
WEEKLY SUNSHUN
NEW SPECIAL OFFERS!
Smartphone
はっ
HOW COULD THEY JUST NOT RUN THE STORY!?
THAT'S STRANGE! BUT HOW!?
UNLESS THEY'VE BEEN SILENCED!
WOULD BE NO EASY FEAT!
COVERING UP SUCH AN ENORMOUS SCANDAL...
WHAT SORT OF FEARSOME BACKING COULD SHE HAVE BEHIND HER!?
THAT GIRL...

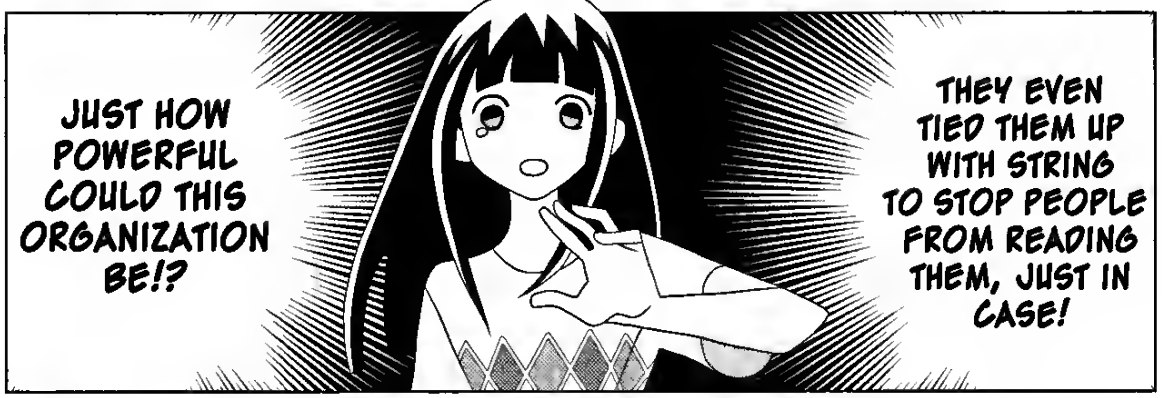
だらだら
だらだら

びっくん
とん
EXCUSE ME...

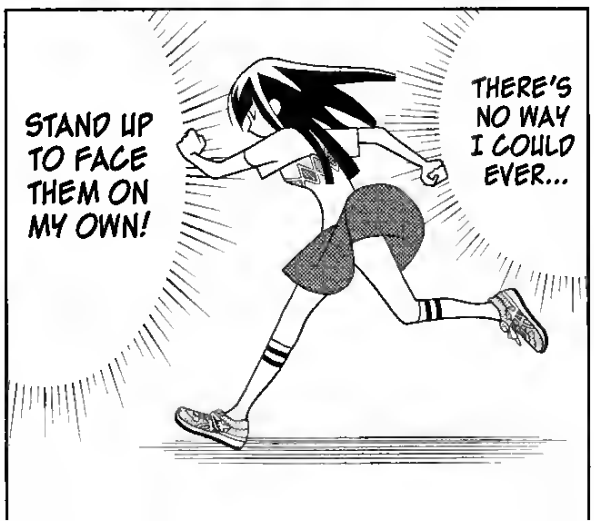
MY CAREER IN SHOW BUSINESS IS OVER!
IF THEY FIGURE OUT THAT I WAS THE SOURCE...


!


Books
STRING?
D'YOU THINK I COULD GET YOU TO NOT PULL THE STRINGS OFF AND JUST START READING?


JUST HOW POWERFUL COULD THIS ORGANIZATION BE!?
THEY EVEN TIED THEM UP WITH STRING TO STOP PEOPLE FROM READING THEM, JUST IN CASE!

I HAVE ONLY ONE COURSE OF ACTION LEFT!


STAND UP TO FACE THEM ON MY OWN!
THERE'S NO WAY I COULD EVER...

だっ

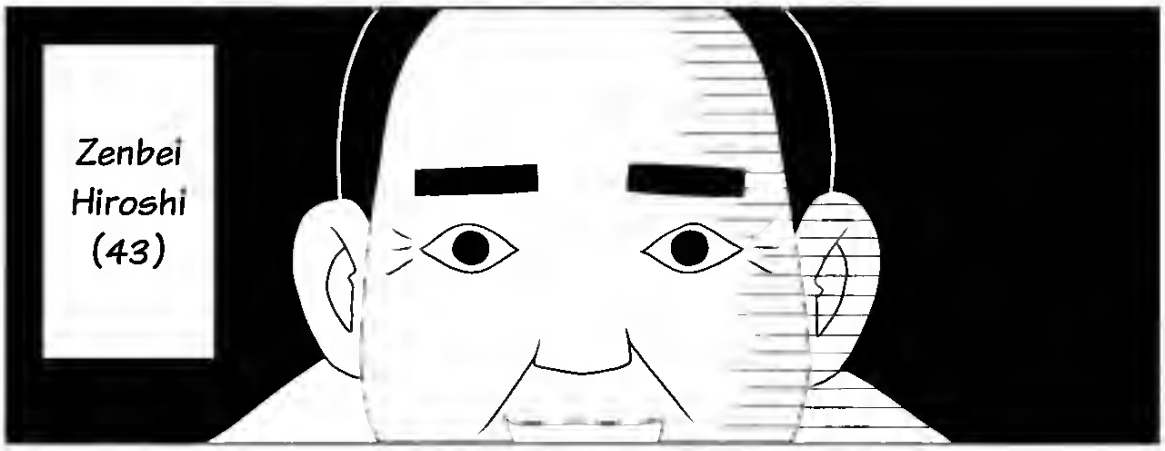
WH—
WHAT'S GOING ON?
I APOLO-GIZE...
FOR MY DEEPLY UNACCEPT-ABLE BEHAVIOR EARLIER!
I—
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT!
PLEASE, GIVE ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO APOLOGIZE TO SHONNY-SAN!
I BEG OF YOU, AT LEAST SPARE ME THE SHAME OF GIVING A TELEVISED APOLOGY!
ANY-THING BUT A TELE-VISED APOLO-GY...

FOR HER TO BE APOLOGIZING SO PROFUSELY...
THIS PERSON SCARES ME!
Let's enjoy
開明僕汁
SHE MUST HAVE REALLY DONE SOMETHING WORTH APOLOGIZING FOR!
YES. IN ALL PROBABILITY...
SOMETHING WORTH APOLOGIZING FOR?
IT MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THESE!
• Putting peppercorns in a visitor's shoe
• Covering up someone's eyes with their own smartphone
• Drawing in extra lines on the wi-fi symbols around town
Wi Fi
SHE MUST HAVE DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE SOMEONE CRY!
THEN IN THAT CASE ...
IT WAS NONE OF THOSE.
IT WAS THAT.
BUT WHO DID SHE MAKE CRY?
AND REFLECT ON YOUR ACTIONS FOR A WHILE!
GO AHEAD AND STAY IN THAT POSITION...

ALL of America Shed Tears

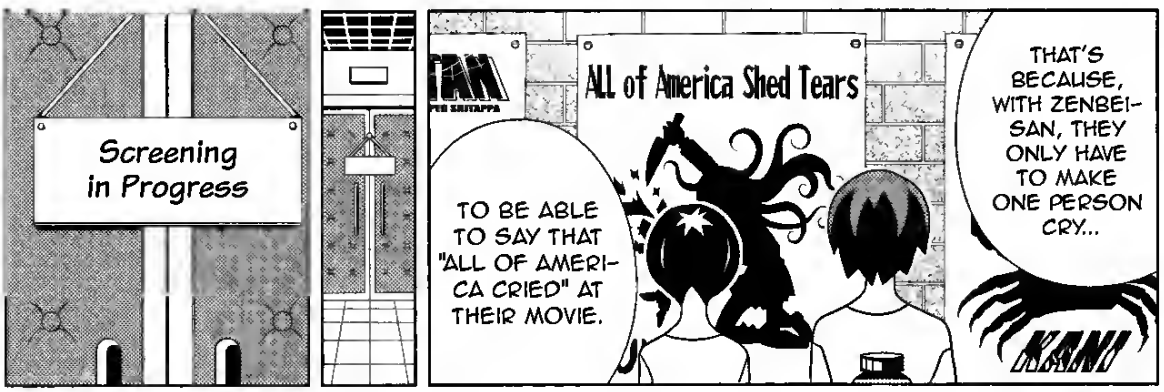
WHY WOULD PEOPLE ALL ACROSS THE U.S. CRY?
ALL ACROSS THE U.S.?
IT WOULD BE AMAZING TO MAKE AUDIENCES ALL ACROSS THE U.S. CRY, WOULDN'T IT?

THIS IS ZENBEI-SAN.
WHO'S HE?
TIGHTS IN THE WIND

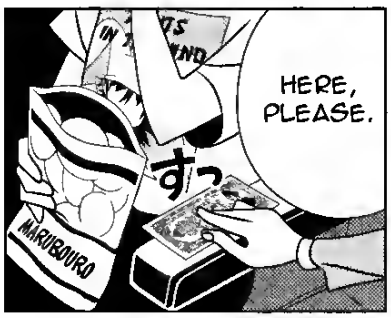

Zenbei Hiroshi (43)

THAT'S RIGHT. EVERYONE IN THE INDUSTRY KNOWS WHO HE IS.
WHEN THEY SAID "ALL OF AMERICA," THEY MEANT A PERSON NAMED "ALL OF AMERICA"?

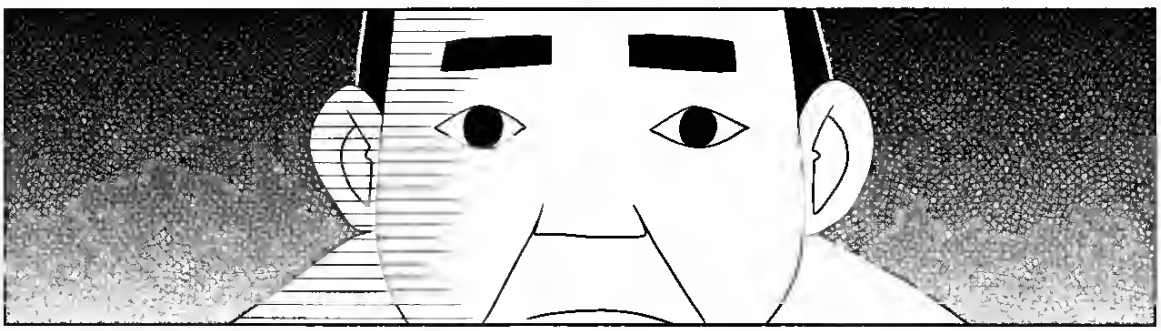
THIS WAY, SENSEI.
ZENBEI-SAN IS EXTREMELY POPULAR AT ADVANCED SCREENINGS AND THE LIKE.

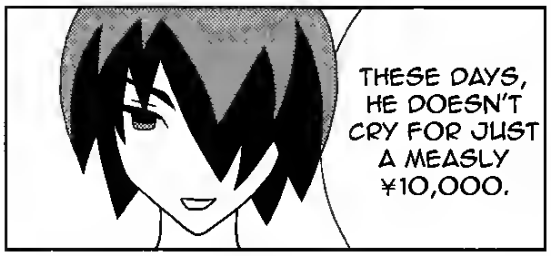

Screening in Progress
ALL of America Shed Tears
TO BE ABLE TO SAY THAT "ALL OF AMERICA CRIED" AT THEIR MOVIE.
THAT'S BECAUSE, WITH ZENBEI-SAN, THEY ONLY HAVE TO MAKE ONE PERSON CRY...
KANI

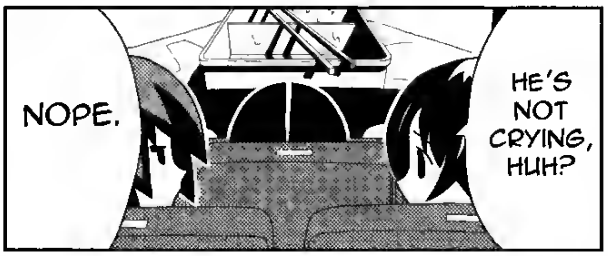
カタ カタ
カタ カタ
Cyber Blue
RICCHI POTE

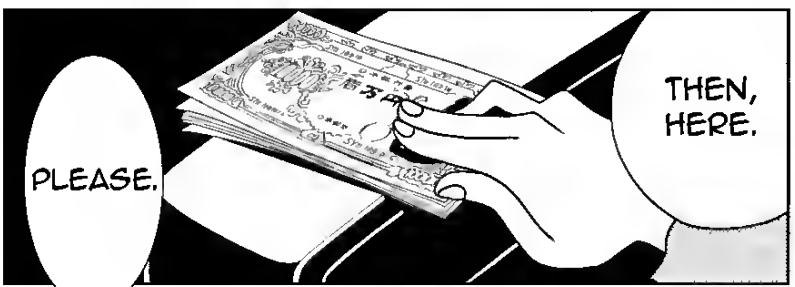

すっ
MARUBOURO
HERE, PLEASE.

Self-written
Self-produced
Actress Award
Winner
IT'S HONESTLY NOT THE KIND OF MOVIE YOU'D CRY OVER, IS IT?



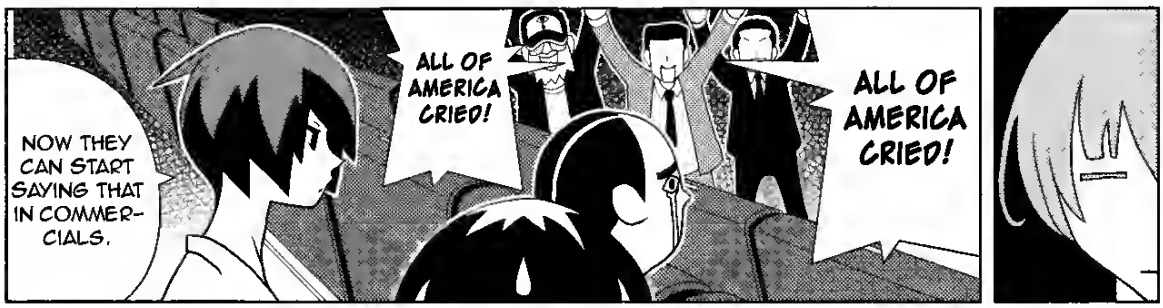

THESE DAYS, HE DOESN'T CRY FOR JUST A MEASLY ¥10,000.

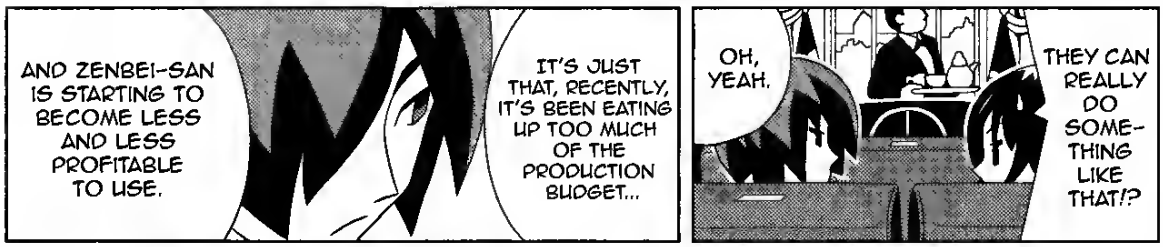

NOPE.
HE'S NOT CRYING, HUH?


PLEASE.
THEN, HERE.

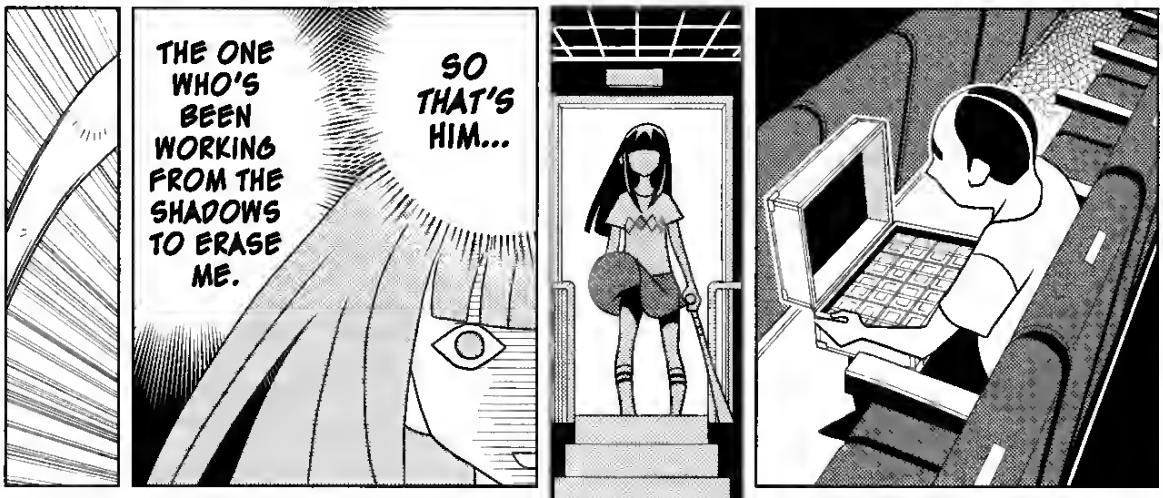
ろっ
OI, PRO-DUCER!
ざわざわ
THAT'S ALL YOU GET FOR ¥100K?
AHHH... I DON'T KNOW IF THIS REALLY COUNTS.
PLEASE, WE BEG OF YOU!
THEN, HOW ABOUT THIS?
THEY'RE STEALING MY EMOTIONS

MY EMOTIONS
IS CRY-ING!
ZENBEI ...


NOW THEY CAN START SAYING THAT IN COMMER-CIALS.
ALL OF AMERICA CRIED!
ALL OF AMERICA CRIED!


AND ZENBEI-SAN IS STARTING TO BECOME LESS AND LESS PROFITABLE TO USE.
IT'S JUST THAT, RECENTLY, IT'S BEEN EATING UP TOO MUCH OF THE PRODUCTION BUDGET...
OH, YEAH.
THEY CAN REALLY DO SOME-THING LIKE THAT!?

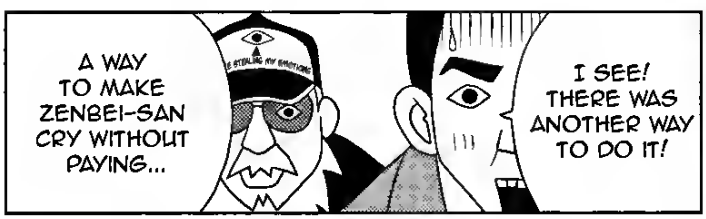
THAT'S RIGHT, ISN'T IT?
Currently negative 10 y/o
THEN WASN'T IT KIND OF POINTLESS?
BUT IF THE ONLY REASON THAT PERSON WAS APOLOGIZING EARLIER WAS BECAUSE SHE MADE ZENBEI-SAN CRY...


THE ONE WHO'S BEEN WORKING FROM THE SHADOWS TO ERASE ME.
SO THAT'S HIM...

ぴしゃっ
ガガガ
ぴしゃっ
NOT IF I ERASE HIM FIRST!

EEEK!
EE—

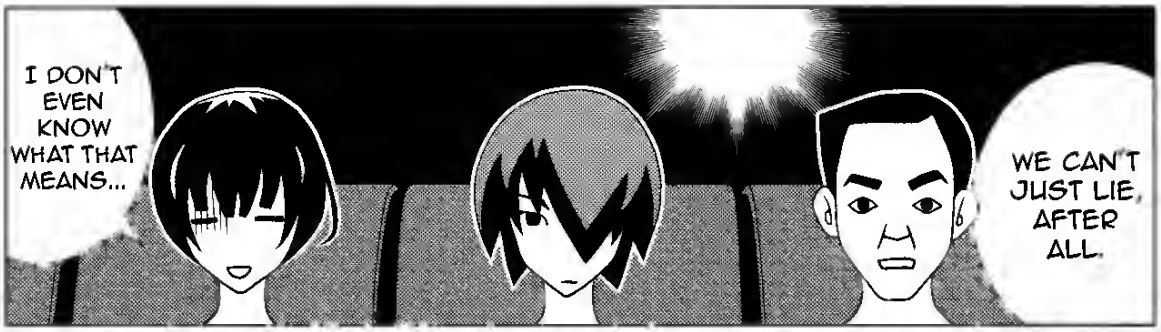
THAT'S NOT ON THE SAME LEVEL AS MAKING HIM CRY!
WITHOUT PAYING HIM ANY MONEY.
NOW I GET IT. IT WAS THAT SHE MADE HIM CRY...

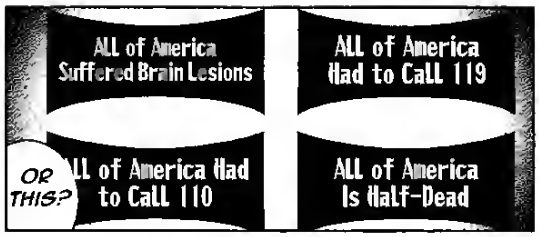

A WAY TO MAKE ZENBEI-SAN CRY WITHOUT PAYING...
I SEE! THERE WAS ANOTHER WAY TO DO IT!

WE WOULD HAVE TO CHANGE THE WORDING A LITTLE BIT, WOULDN'T WE?
BUT THIS WAY...

カラン

ALL of America Took
Five Months to Fully Recover

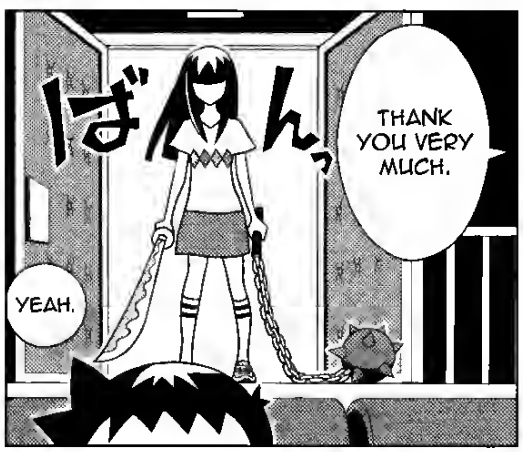

I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS...
WE CAN'T JUST LIE AFTER ALL.


ALL of America Suffered Brain Lesions
ALL of America Had to Call 119
OR THIS?
ALL of America Had to Call 110
ALL of America Is Half-Dead

ALL of America Suffered Compound Fractures
THIS?
THEN HOW ABOUT ...

WE'VE HAD HIM FORMALLY ADOPT SOMEONE WHO CAN STAND IN AS A SECOND-GENERATION ZENBEI-SAN FOR US.
No Visitors
Zenbei Hiroshi
SINCE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO USE ZENBEI-SAN WHILE HE'S IN THE HOSPITAL...

IT'S THE KIND OF SLOGAN THAT REALLY ROUSES YOUR INTEREST!
MAN, ALL OF THEM SOUND LIKE THEY WOULD WORK, HUH?


ばんっ
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
YEAH.

ALL of Am
Intens
SOMETHING LIKE, "ALL OF AMERICA IS IN INTENSIVE CARE"...
WOULD REALLY MAKE YOU WANT TO SEE IT, HUH?

YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER OFFER FOR ME?
WHAT...
The Second Zenbei-San

Fin

Translator's Notes (1/2)

- Page 3, Panel 1: "by Chouno"
  Professional wrestler Chouno (Chono) Masahiro, who served as a spokesperson for the 2015 Girls und Panzer movie.

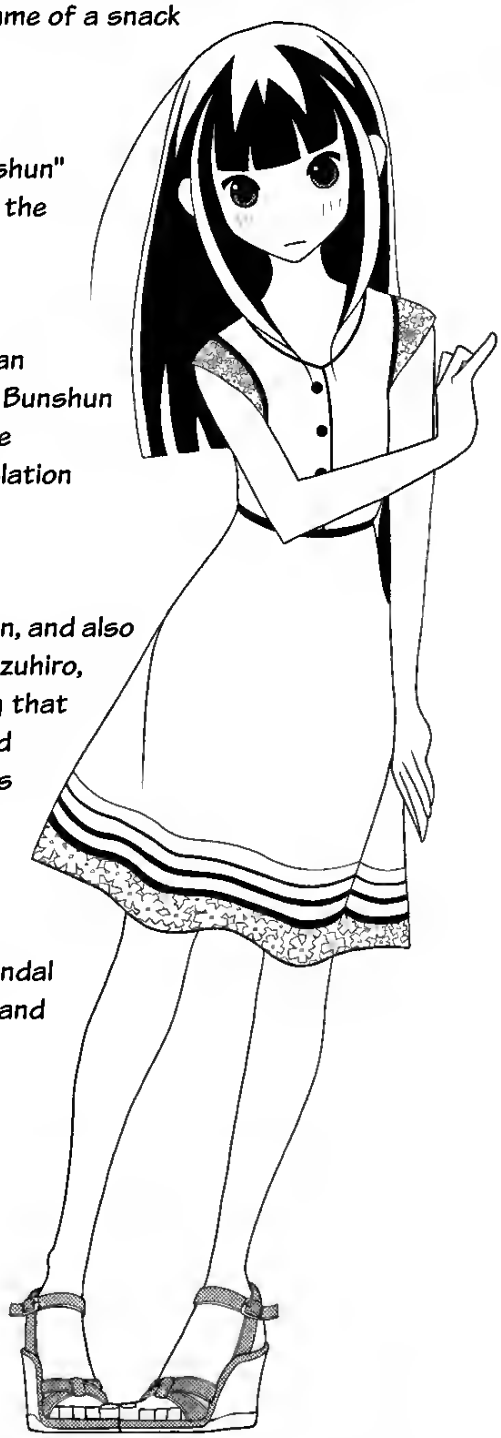
- Page 3, Panel 1: "I Peeled Amari"
  Probably referring to Shinzou Abe's former Minister of State for Economic Revitalization, Amari Akira, who was involved in a bribery scandal in early 2016 and forced to resign. Also a play on words based on "Amaguri Muichaimashita," the name of a snack that literally means "we peeled sweet chestnuts."

- Page 4, Panel 4: "Bunshun"
  A reference to the weekly tabloid magazine "Shuukan Bunshun" (in this case written with a different character). This was the same magazine that broke Amari's bribery scandal.

- Page 4, Final Panel: "Let's Positi-bu!"
  A reference to the words TV personality Becky and musician Kawatani Enon reportedly used to cheer each other up as Bunshun broke news of their affair scandal in early 2016. The phrase gathered popular attention alongside Becky's literal translation of the magazine's name, "Sentence Spring."

- Page 5, Panel 3: "Buttobuze! Kiyohara-kun"
  A reference to the baseball manga Kattobase! Kiyohara-kun, and also possibly to former professional baseball star Kiyohara Kazuhiro, who was the subject of a 2014 article by Bunshun claiming that he had been hospitalized for drug abuse. He fiercely denied these claims and threatened to sue the magazine, but was nonetheless arrested for drug possession in February of 2016.

- Page 5, Panel 3: "leaked LINE images"
  Included in their report of the above-mentioned affair scandal were leaked screenshots of conversations between Becky and Kawatani over the messaging app LINE.



Translator's Notes (2/2)

- *Page 5, Panel 3: "The Silence of Mary's Lambs"*
  Possibly a reference to Mary Kitagawa, the vice-president of Johnny & Associates, a talent agency specializing in male idol groups. She gave an interview with Bunshun in 2015, despite the magazine having been at odds with the agency over articles alleging that many of the young boys they trained as idols had been sexually abused.

- *Page 5, Panel 5: "Gesmey Land", "Height of Garbage"*
  References to Kawatani Enon's (see above) band Gesu no Kiwami Otome, "Girl at the Height of Rudeness."

- *Page 8, Panels 4-5: "Please, give me an opportunity to apologize to Shonny-san!"*
  A reference to a televised apology made by members of the male idol group SMAP, broadcast live on January 18, 2016. Following the resignation of their manager, four members of the band (excluding only Kimura Takuya) were reported in the media to be considering breaking up and leaving the Johnny & Associates talent agency, prompting an uproar. During their subsequent apology, member Kusanagi Tsuyoshi famously stated, "It's because Kimura-kun gave us opportunity to apologize to Johnny-san that we're able to stand here before you now." The group was nonetheless disbanded at the end of the year.

- *Page 16, Panel 4: "119", "110"*
  The Japanese emergency numbers for the fire department and the police, respectively.